



State of Utah

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preparedness and Safety *Flood Safety Awareness Week Continues Through Friday*

Why do I need to be concerned about floods and flash floods?

Flash floods and floods are the No. 1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms in the United States, claiming more than 140 fatalities each year. Flooding also causes more damage in the United States than any other weather-related event, an average of \$4.6 billion a year. In Utah, flooding has accounted for 27 fatalities since 1950. Nearly half of all flash flood fatalities are vehicle-related. Drivers should remember that two feet of water will cause most vehicles to float. Six inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet.

Where can I get weather information?

NOAA Weather Radio is one of the best ways to receive forecasts, watches, and warnings from NOAA's National Weather Service. NOAA Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather and river information direct from nearby NWS offices. Also, the NWS webpage at <http://www.weather.gov/ahps> will identify where flooding is occurring.

What are some of the basic safety rules I need to be aware of?

Before venturing into flood prone areas, monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your favorite news source for vital weather information. If you find yourself in an area where flooding is occurring, move to higher ground away from areas subject to flooding. Avoid areas already flooded and do not attempt to cross flowing streams. Never allow children to play around high water, storm drains, viaducts, or arroyos. In a vehicle, do not drive around barriers that warn you the road is flooded. Never drive through flooded roadways, as the road bed under the flood waters may be washed out. Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes if there is a threat of flooding. Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.

What are some safety rules specific to slot canyons and rugged terrain?

Check in at visitor centers/contact stations and obtain permits. Become familiar with the terrain and know your escape routes. Be aware that deadly flash flood waters can travel from many miles away with travel times of 10 hours or more. Always let someone know your itinerary.

Where can I learn more about the dangers of floods and flash floods?

The Turn Around Don't Drown web page at <http://www.weather.gov/os/water/tadd> and the National Flood Safety Awareness Week web page at <http://www.floodsafety.noaa.gov> are excellent resources.

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